

Appl. No. : **10/810,990**
Filed : **March 26, 2004**

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 and 20 were pending before the Examiner. Claims 1-9 have been canceled. No claims have been amended, no claims have been added in this paper. No new matter has been added with this amendment.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the telephone discussion of April 24, 2007 to discuss the status of this application.

Claim Rejections Raised in Final Office Action

In the Final Office Action mailed January 26, 2007, the Examiner maintained a previous rejection of Claims 1-9 as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,152,144 to Lesh et al. The Examiner has indicated Claims 10-20 to be allowable. Applicants have canceled Claims 1-9. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner's rejection is now moot and only allowable subject matter remains pending in this application. Applicants respectfully request that a Notice of Allowance be issued at the Examiner's earliest opportunity.

Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejections and the Examiner's assertions regarding what the prior art shows or teaches, even if not expressly discussed herein. Although claims have been canceled, no acquiescence or estoppel is or should be implied thereby; such amendments are made only to expedite prosecution of the present application and are without prejudice to the presentation or assertion, in the future, of claims relating to the same or similar subject matter.

Previously Submitted Information Disclosure Statements

Upon review of the prosecution of this application, Applicants note that an Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) submitted on October 26, 2005 and an Information Disclosure Statement submitted on September 20, 2004 do not yet appear to have been initialed by the Examiner. Both of these IDSs are viewable on the image file wrapper for this application on the PAIR system. Applicants presume that the references cited in these IDSs have been considered by the Examiner. Applicants request that the Examiner initial these IDSs before issuing an Notice of Allowance.

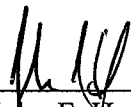
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In light of the above discussion, Applicants submit that Claims 10-18 and 20 are in condition for allowance. Applicants believe no fees are due with the filing of this paper. However, should any fees be due, please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

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AMEND

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